Rules 1955. The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs administering the provisions of the PFA Act have been urged to keep a vigil on the quality of Mineral Water sold in the market.

No specific complaint regarding marketing of spurious Mineral Water has been received by the Govt, from the Food Health Authorities of States/UTs administering the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules 1955.

Reduction in child mortality rate in Bihar

146. SHRI. S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that child mortality rate in Bihar has not declined particularly in its rural areas despite best efforts of Central and State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for such a situation whereas the child mortality rate has considerably declined in other States; and

(c) remedial measures Government propose to take to reduce child mortality rate in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALITEZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) As per information available through Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India, the Child (0-4 years) Mortality Rate in Rural Areas of Bihar has declined from 39.4 in 1988 to 28.9 in 1995. Major causes of Child Mortality include diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections and malnutrition. Contributory factors include low literacy level, inadequate sanitation and lack of safe drinking water and low rate of utilisation of Medical Services.

(c) To bring down child mortality, intervention like Immunization; Control of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections; essential newborn care; and prophylaxis against Iron and Vitamin A deficiencies are being implemented in Bihar as paft of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. The Programme also aims at improving utilisation through upgrading the quality of medical services.

New Exam Centres for Medical Entrance Test in Kerala

347. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for new exam centres in Kerala for medical entrance test;

(b) if so, what is the action taken in this regard;

(c) total students appeared in the last medical entrance test in the country; and

(d) State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT AZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination is being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education as per the directives of the Supreme Court of India. This Examination is conducted in all State Capitals except in Maharashtra where the examination is conducted at Nagpur, in addition to Mumbai. Addition of new Centres at places like Kochi and Kozhikode in Kerala was considered by Central Board of Secondary Education. Since the Centres are fixed in State/ UT Capitals only, CBSE has not acceded to the request.

(c) In 1997, 1,40,112 candidates appeared for the All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination.

(d) The State-wise break-up of the candidates who appeared in the All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination, 1997 is in the attached Statement.

Statement

State-wise Break up of the Candidates appeared at AIPMT, 1997

s. No	State/union Territory	No. of Candidates Appeared
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	151
3.	Assam	1201